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## NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

22850

7590

06/02/2009

OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.  
1940 DUKE STREET  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

HUYNH, NAM TRUNG

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2617

DATE MAILED: 06/02/2009

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/564,317	01/12/2006	Hiroyuki Kikioji	277147US6PCT	7397
TITLE OF INVENTION: COMMUNICATION DEVICE, COMMUNICATE METHOD FOR COMMUNICATION DEVICE, AND COMMUNICATION PROGRAM FOR COMMUNICATION DEVICE				

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	09/02/2009

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. **PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.** THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN **THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE** OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. **THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.** SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

## HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

# **PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL**

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to:** Mail **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**  
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 or Fax **(571)-273-2885**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

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22850 7590 06/02/2009

**OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.**  
 1940 DUKE STREET  
 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

## **Certificate of Mailing or Transmission**

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/564,317 01/12/2006 Hiroyuki Kikkoji 277147US6PCT 7397

**TITLE OF INVENTION:** COMMUNICATION DEVICE, COMMUNICATE METHOD FOR COMMUNICATION DEVICE, AND COMMUNICATION PROGRAM FOR COMMUNICATION DEVICE

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	09/02/2009

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
HUYNHI, NAM TRUNG	2617	455-412100

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.  
☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev. 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a **Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 \_\_\_\_\_

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY AND STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee  
☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)  
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies \_\_\_\_\_

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.  
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.  
☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Typed or printed name \_\_\_\_\_ Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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Hiroyuki Kikkoji

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HUYNH, NAM TRUNG

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2617

DATE MAILED: 06/02/2009

OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.  
1940 DUKE STREET  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

## Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 515 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 515 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/564,317

Examiner

NAM HUYNH

Applicant(s)

KIKKOJI ET AL.

Art Unit

2617

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 1/22/09.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 9, 12 and 14-17.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

/George Eng/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2617

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Amendment*

This office action is in response to amendment filed on 1/22/09. Of the previously presented claims 1-5, 9, and 12; claims 1-5, 9, and 12 were amended and claims 14-17 were added.

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

#### **Claims**

1. A communication apparatus for receiving related information about contents, comprising:

means for obtaining a ~~callsign~~ **call sign** of a broadcasting station in accordance with an external input signal, wherein the ~~callsign~~ **call sign** identifies the broadcasting station;

detection means, for detecting whether or not user personal information has been stored in a storage medium, when making an access request to an external device

that provides said related information about the contents broadcast by the broadcasting station;

transmission means for transmitting request information that requests said related information about the contents and for transmitting available/unavailable request information that requests information showing whether or not said external device offers a service providing said related information about the contents, if said user personal information is not detected by said detection means;

notification means for notifying information concerning a service, providing said related information about the contents, being offered by said external device, and for receiving available/unavailable information, showing whether or not said external device offers said service, in reply to said available/unavailable request information, if said user personal information is not detected by said detection means;

means for transmitting said ~~call sign~~ call sign and said user personal information to said external device in order to request user registration in accordance with said available/unavailable information, wherein said user personal information is utilized to register with said external device, if said user personal information is not detected by said detection means;

means for receiving registration-completed information from said external device, if said user personal information is not detected by said detection means; and  
means for storing said user personal information in said storage medium, if said user personal information is not detected by said detection means.

9. A communication method in a communication apparatus for receiving related information about contents, comprising the steps of:

obtaining a ~~callsign~~ call sign of a broadcasting station in accordance with an external input signal, wherein the ~~callsign~~ call sign identifies the broadcasting station;

detecting whether or not user personal information has been stored in a storage medium, when making an access request to an external device that provides said related information about the contents broadcast by the broadcasting station;

transmitting available/unavailable request information that requests information showing whether or not said external device offers a service providing said related information about the contents, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step;

receiving available/unavailable information, showing whether or not said external device offers said service, in reply to said available/unavailable request information, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step;

transmitting said ~~callsign~~ call sign and said user personal information to said external device in order to request user registration in accordance with said available/unavailable information, wherein said user personal information is utilized to register with said external device, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step;

receiving registration-completed information from said external device, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step;

storing said user personal information in said storage medium, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step;

transmitting request information that requests said related information about the contents; and

notifying information concerning a service, providing said related information about the contents, being offered by said external device.

12. A computer-readable storage medium including a communication program in a communication for receiving related information about contents, wherein the communication program, when executed by a computer, makes the computer perform the a method comprising:

obtaining a ~~call sign~~ **call sign** of a broadcasting station in accordance with an external input signal, wherein the ~~call sign~~ **call sign** identifies the broadcasting station;

detecting whether or not user personal information has been stored in a storage medium, when making an access request to an external device that provides said related information about the contents broadcast by the broadcasting station;

transmitting available/unavailable request information that requests information showing whether or not said external device offers a service providing said related information about the contents, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step;

receiving available/unavailable information, showing whether or not said external device offers said service, in reply to said available/unavailable request information, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step;



transmitting said ~~callsign~~ **call sign** and said user personal information to said external device in order to request user registration in accordance with said available/unavailable information wherein said user personal information is utilized to register with said external device, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step;

receiving registration-completed information from said external device, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step;

storing said user personal information in said storage medium, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step;

transmitting request information that requests said related information about the contents; and

notifying information concerning a service providing said related information about the contents by said external device.

17. A communication apparatus, comprising:

a processor configured to obtain a ~~callsign~~ **call sign** of a broadcasting station in accordance with an external input signal, wherein the ~~callsign~~ **call sign** identifies the broadcasting station, the processor being configured to detect whether or not user personal information has been stored in a storage medium, when making an access request to an external device providing related information about contents broadcast by the broadcasting station, the processor being configured to transmit available/unavailable request information that requests information showing whether or not said external device offers a service providing said related information about the

contents, configured to receive available/unavailable information, showing whether or not said external device offers said service, in reply to said available/unavailable request information, configured to transmit said ~~callsign~~ **call sign** and said user personal information to said external device in order to request user registration in accordance with said available/unavailable information, wherein said user personal information is utilized to register with said external device, configured to receive registration-completed information from said external device, and configured to store said user personal information in said storage medium, if said user personal information is not detected by said processor, the processor further configured to transmit request information that requests said related information about the contents; and

a notification unit configured to notify information concerning a service, providing said related information about the contents, being offered by said external device.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claims 1-5, 9, 12, and 14-17 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present application pertains to a communication apparatus that enables a user to receive related information about contents, such as a musical composition, being offered by requesting information showing whether or not related information about contents is offered to an external device.

According to the claimed invention independent claim 1 recites: A communication apparatus for receiving related information about contents, comprising:

means for obtaining a call sign of a broadcasting station in accordance with an external input signal, wherein the call sign identifies the broadcasting station; detection means, for detecting whether or not user personal information has been stored in a storage medium, when making an access request to an external device that provides said related information about the contents broadcast by the broadcasting station; transmission means for transmitting request information that requests said related information about the contents and for transmitting available/unavailable request information that requests information showing whether or not said external device offers a service providing said related information about the contents, if said user personal information is not detected by said detection means; notification means for notifying information concerning a service, providing said related information about the contents, being offered by said external device, and for receiving available/unavailable information, showing whether or not said external device offers said service, in reply to said available/unavailable request information, if said user personal information is not detected by said detection means; means for transmitting said call sign and said user personal information to said external device in order to request user registration in accordance with said available/unavailable information, wherein said user personal information is utilized to register with said external device, if said user personal information is not detected by said detection means; means for receiving registration-completed information from said external device, if said user personal information is not detected by said detection means; and means for storing said user personal information

in said storage medium, if said user personal information is not detected by said detection means.

Independent claim 9 recites: A communication method in a communication apparatus for receiving related information about contents, comprising the steps of: obtaining a call sign of a broadcasting station in accordance with an external input signal, wherein the call sign identifies the broadcasting station; detecting whether or not user personal information has been stored in a storage medium, when making an access request to an external device that provides said related information about the contents broadcast by the broadcasting station; transmitting available/unavailable request information that requests information showing whether or not said external device offers a service providing said related information about the contents, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step; receiving available/unavailable information, showing whether or not said external device offers said service, in reply to said available/unavailable request information, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step; transmitting said call sign and said user personal information to said external device in order to request user registration in accordance with said available/unavailable information, wherein said user personal information is utilized to register with said external device, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step; receiving registration-completed information from said external device, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step; storing said user personal information in said storage medium, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step; transmitting

request information that requests said related information about the contents; and notifying information concerning a service, providing said related information about the contents, being offered by said external device.

Independent claim 12 recites: A computer-readable storage medium including a communication program in a communication for receiving related information about contents, wherein the communication program, when executed by a computer, makes the computer perform the a method comprising: obtaining a call sign of a broadcasting station in accordance with an external input signal, wherein the call sign identifies the broadcasting station; detecting whether or not user personal information has been stored in a storage medium, when making an access request to an external device that provides said related information about the contents broadcast by the broadcasting station; transmitting available/unavailable request information that requests information showing whether or not said external device offers a service providing said related information about the contents, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step; receiving available/unavailable information, showing whether or not said external device offers said service, in reply to said available/unavailable request information, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step; transmitting said call sign and said user personal information to said external device in order to request user registration in accordance with said available/unavailable information wherein said user personal information is utilized to register with said external device, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step; receiving registration-completed information from said external device, if said user

personal information is not detected in said detecting step; storing said user personal information in said storage medium, if said user personal information is not detected in said detecting step; transmitting request information that requests said related information about the contents; and notifying information concerning a service providing said related information about the contents by said external device.

Independent claim 17 recites: A communication apparatus, comprising: a processor configured to obtain a call sign of a broadcasting station in accordance with an external input signal, wherein the call sign identifies the broadcasting station, the processor being configured to detect whether or not user personal information has been stored in a storage medium, when making an access request to an external device providing related information about contents broadcast by the broadcasting station, the processor being configured to transmit available/unavailable request information that requests information showing whether or not said external device offers a service providing said related information about the contents, configured to receive available/unavailable information, showing whether or not said external device offers said service, in reply to said available/unavailable request information, configured to transmit said call sign and said user personal information to said external device in order to request user registration in accordance with said available/unavailable information, wherein said user personal information is utilized to register with said external device, configured to receive registration-completed information from said external device, and configured to store said user personal information in said storage medium, if said user personal information is not detected by said processor, the

processor further configured to transmit request information that requests said related information about the contents; and a notification unit configured to notify information concerning a service, providing said related information about the contents, being offered by said external device.

Applicant's independent claims comprise a particular combination of elements, which is neither taught nor suggested by the prior art. Accordingly, Applicant's claims are allowed for these reasons and for the reasons recited by the Applicant in the amendment filed on 1/22/09.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Bowman et al. (US 2002/0174431)

Henrick (US 6,507,727)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to NAM HUYNH whose telephone number is (571)272-5970. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 a.m.-5 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, George Eng can be reached on 571-272-7495. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/George Eng/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2617

/Nam Huynh/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2617